

## Chairs' Welcome

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the new *ACM Workshop on Wireless Networks and Systems for Developing Regions -- WiNS-DR'08*. This workshop focuses on the technology required to provide communications and information access to rural regions in the developing world, and in particular technical aspects of wireless networking, systems and communication. This target environment poses unique system-wide challenges that require the development of new research approaches and innovative designs and techniques. These challenges include infrastructure issues, such as power and connectivity limitations, as well as particular user needs, including cost, literacy and language issues. Thus in addition to considering the specifics of networking protocols and architectures, the aim of the workshop is to consider the entire system by which networking and communication is provided, all the key technical stakeholders, and the overall system lifecycle from economic modeling to deployment.

*Why this workshop?* Wireless systems for developing regions represent an exciting but underutilized opportunity for large-scale impact on the economic livelihood and well-being of the population in these areas. In addition it is clear that the fastest growing markets for wireless technology are in these regions. The special challenges faced in these regions lead to a host of complex and interesting R&D problems that require innovation.

*What is in the Program?* The program committee received papers from India, Malaysia, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, UK and the US. Each paper received multiple peer reviews from the program committee and 6 were selected for publication. In addition we invited 3 papers from respected experts in the field.

The resulting program is organized into three major sessions on Deployment Experience, the specific technical challenges of Delay Tolerant Networking, and a broader session on Policy, Platforms and Architectures.

*How do I get involved further?* Participate in the workshop, propose ideas to follow on the workshop or for next year, write a paper, and contact us to volunteer to help!